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URBAN DISTRICT

OF

FEATHERSTONE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

FEATHERSTONE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959.

BY

J. F. FRASER.

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
Baghill House,
Walkergate,
Pontefract.

Madam Chairman and Members of the Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, a Report on the Health and Health Services of Featherstone during the year, 1959.

The Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector, dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this report.

For your information, certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council, are included.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

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FEATHERSTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL - 1959.

Chairman: Cr. Mrs. J. Brabbs.
Vice-Chairman: Cr. T. Morgan.
Cr. D. Cameron.
Cr. A.J. Davies.
Cr. Mrs. M.L. Fox.
Cr. J. Harper. J.P.
Cr. Mrs. B. Major.
Cr. W. Marsh.
Cr. S. Robinson.
Cr. H. Woodcock.
Cr. T.A. Worsfold.
Cr. H. Wright.

Clerk to the Council:-
H. Tattersall, A.L.A.A., F.R.Econ. C.
Medical Officer of Health:-
John F. Fraser, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.
Senior Public Health Inspector:-
J.F. Ellison. C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

PART ONE.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

General Statistics.

Area of District:- 4,425 Acres.

Population, mid-year, Registrar-General's estimate:- 14,530.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1959:- 4,523.

Rateable Value at end of 1959 - £94,705. 1958 - £84,013.

Product of Penny Rate: 1959 - £318.18s.0d. 1958 - £323.2s.3d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1958.

Live Births.	Male.		Female.		Total.	
Legitimate	137	(140)	121	(118)	258	(258)
Illegitimate	5	(2)	3	(3)	8	(5)
Totals:-	142	(142)	124	(121)	266	(263)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population: 18.3 (18.2)

Still Births.	Male.		Female.		Total.	
Legitimate	3	(3)	2	(1)	5	(4)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Totals:-	3	(3)	2	(1)	5	(4)

Rate per 1,000 live and still births:- 18.5 (15.0)
Rate per 1,000 estimated population:- 0.34 (0.27)

Deaths.	Male.		Female.		Total.	
All age groups.	72	(68)	68	(47)	140	(115)

Deaths. Infants under One Year.	Male.		Female.		Total.	
Legitimate	10	(3)	4	(2)	14	(5)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
	10	(3)	4	(2)	14	(5)

Deaths. Infants under Four weeks.	Male.		Female.		Total.	
Legitimate	8	(3)	4	(2)	12	(5)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
	8	(3)	4	(2)	12	(5)

MATERNAL DEATHS:- Nil. (Nil).

Death Rates.

General rate per 1,000 population: 9.6 (7.9)
All infants per 1,000 live births: 52.6 (19.0)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 54.26 (11.5)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births: Nil. (Nil).

The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table:-

TABLE I.

Cause of Death.	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach.	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung Bronchus.	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast.	-	4	4
Other malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	4	9	13
Diabetes.	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	6	12
Coronary disease, Angina.	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	1	3
Other heart diseases.	12	13	25
Other circulatory disease.	3	4	7
Influenza.	2	1	3
Pneumonia.	6	5	11
Bronchitis.	7	5	12
Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1	-	1
Congenital Malformation.	-	1	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	9	9	18
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3
All other accidents.	2	4	6
Totals:-	72	68	140

The number of deaths registered during the year was 140, an increase of 25 compared with last year. This yields a death rate of 9.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against a figure of 7.9 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales is 11.6.

The principal causes of death as compared with 1958, 1957, 1956, and 1955 are as follows:-

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955.
Heart disease.	46	44	68	65	42
Cancer.	21	18	21	20	26
Bronchitis.	12	7	16	8	21
Tuberculosis. (All forms).	Nil	4	4	1	1

INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate for 1959 is 52.6, compared with 22.0 which is the figure for England and Wales.

The following Table gives causes of infant deaths during 1959, classified into age groups and months of incidence.

TABLE II.

Cause of Death.	Weeks				Months				-1 yr.		
	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	M	F	T
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Hydrocephaltic Meningomyelocele.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Prematurity.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Broncho Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Lobar Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Atelectasis.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2
Broncho Pneumonia Intercranial Haemorrhage (Birth Injury).	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Subdural Haemorrhage Tentorial tear. Haemorrhage Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia. Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Totals:-	8	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	10	4	14

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR PREVIOUS SEVEN YEARS AS COMPARED WITH 1959.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1952	18.4	9.2	19.3
1953	19.8	8.0	32.4
1954	15.6	10.1.	36.5
1955	16.6	10.4	42.6
1956	19.5	9.3	28.7
1957	18.9	10.3	22.1
1958	18.2	7.9	19.0
1959	18.3	9.6	52.6

COMPARISON OF FEATHERSTONE VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING URBAN DISTRICTS, THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

TABLE III

	Featherstone Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County.	England & Wales (Provisional) figures.
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population).	18.3	16.1	16.5	16.5
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated pop.) All causes.	9.6	12.4	11.6	11.6
Infective & Para. Dis. Excl. Tub. but incl. Syphl. & Other V.D.	-	0.04	0.04	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	-	0.08	0.07	0.08
Tuberculosis Other.	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Tuberculosis. All forms.	-	0.09	0.08	0.09
Cancer.	1.45	2.12	1.99	2.14
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system.	0.83	1.96	1.81	*
Heart and circulatory.	3.17	4.68	4.31	*
Respiratory Diseases.	2.00	1.55	1.44	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births).	-	0.41	0.36	0.38
Infant Mortality.	52.6	24.0	24.0	22.0
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births).	18.5	19.7	20.4	20.7

* Figures not available.

PART TWO.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

TABLE IV.

Disease.	Jan/ Mar.	Apl/ Jun.	Jul/ Sep.	Oct/ Dec.	Total	Deaths	No. of Cases Admitted to Hosp.
Scarlet Fever.	12	4	2	11	29	Nil	1
Whooping Cough.	9	4	5	9	27	"	2
Measles.	222	45	-	1	268	"	2
Dysentery.	7	1	-	1	9	"	1
Pneumonia.	17	4	1	1	23	1	2
Food Poisoning.	3	-	1	-	4	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic.	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Totals.	270	59	9	23	361	1	9

Measles follows a two yearly cycle and this has been a 'high' measles year. There were 268 cases against 49 in 1958 and 474 in 1957.

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

Immunisation.

187 children under the age of five years and 3 over the age of five years received a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria. In addition, 21 children received a reinforcing injection.

A special immunisation session was held at Albert Street Clinic, Featherstone, on the first Thursday of each month.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of Tuberculous persons:-

TABLE V.

Number of cases in Register.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total in Register.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At the commencement of 1959.	74	43	15	17	149
Notified for the first time during 1959.	3	3	-	-	6
Inward Transfers.	2	2	-	-	4
Removed during 1959.	4	5	2	2	13
Cases remaining on Register at the end of 1959.	75	43	13	15	146

The reason for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table:-

TABLE VI

Entries Relating to:	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died.	2	2	-	-	4
Persons certified by the medical practitioners in attendance to have recovered.	1	2	2	2	7
Persons who have ceased to reside in district.	1	1	-	-	2
Totals:-	4	5	2	2	13

In the following Table, new cases and mortality are classified:-

TABLE VII.

Ages.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 25	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 35	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
" 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 65	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:-	3	3	-	-	2	2	-	-

National Assistance Act.

Section 47.

It was found necessary to deal with any patients under the above Act.

PART III.

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF THE
WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
DIVISION 12.

Pontefract Municipal Borough.

Featherstone Urban District.

Knottingley Urban District.

Osgoldcross Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

1959.

BY

J. F. FRASER.,

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Divisional Staff at 31.12.59.

Divisional Medical Officer.

J.F. Fraser. M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C. O.G.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

G.M. Mayhall. F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

J.C. White. M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board - Visiting Staff.

Ophthalmologist.

J.V. Kirkwood. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon.

R.W. L. Calderwood. F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngologist.

K.M. Mayall. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.F.P.S.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E.M. Atkinson.
Mrs. P.M. Brice.
Mrs. B. Clarke.
Miss A. Elsley.
Mrs. M. Faulkner.
Miss B.N. Kennington.
Miss B.K. Porter.
Mrs. M.K. Walsh.
Miss B. Wright.

Assistant Health Visitors.

Miss L.O.I. Day.
Mrs. J.K. Smith. (Clinic Nurse).

Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

Midwives.

Mrs. A. Atack.
Mrs. K. Berry.
Miss R.G. Fielder.
Mrs. E. Glover. (Relief).
Mrs. D. Kelly.
Mrs. B. Lisher.
Miss C. Norton.
Mrs. A. M. Randall.
Miss C.A. Roberts.
Mrs. J.R. Wilford.

Home Nurses.

Miss L. Casey.
Miss J.M. Davis.
Mrs. F. Green.
Miss E. Lumley.
Mrs. A. Pearce.
Miss M. Reading. (County Relief).

Home Nurse/Midwives.

Miss B.M. Butterworth.
Miss D.A. Sutcliffe.

Mental Health Social Worker.

Mrs. M. Myers.

Speech Therapist.

Miss K. Wade.

Duly Authorised Officer.

Mr. G.F. Townend.

Clerical Staff.

Mr. W. Carver - Senior Clerk.
Mr. R. Bailey - Deputy Senior Clerk.
Mrs. M. Bailey.
Miss F.C. Beresford. (Sick leave).
Miss K. Duker.
Mrs. E.M. Slack. (Part-time).
Mrs. T. Smith.
Mr. A. Sutcliffe.
Miss M. Thorpe.
Mrs. C. Walker.

INTRODUCTION.

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Services Act.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1959 was 1092, a decrease of 46 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 18.4 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 19.5 for the previous year was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 16.5 and the England and Wales birth rate of 16.5.

Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 607, a decrease of 190 compared with 1958.

It will be recalled that in 1958 the Register General incorrectly assigned many deaths which took place in Headlands Hospital, Pontefract, to the Pontefract Borough even though the persons concerned had lived elsewhere before admission. This gave an abnormally high death rate to which I drew attention last year. This error has not been repeated and the figures for 1959 give a more accurate picture of the situation.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 10.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 13.6 for the previous year. The West Riding Administrative area is 11.6 and England and Wales 11.6.

Infant Mortality.

In 1959 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 36. The infant mortality was 33.0 as against 23.7 in the previous year.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths in the Divisional area during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Of the 1094 notified live births, 462 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 43 of these cases.

Notifications.

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the Division:-

Death of Mother.	-
Death of Child.	1
Still Births.	2
Artificial Feeding.	66
Liability to be a source of infection.	5

Medical Assistance.

Medical Aid notices sent in by midwives during 1958 numbered 116, all of these being domiciliary.

Gas and Air Analgesia.

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Gas and air analgesia only was given in 76 cases. Pethidine only was given in 81 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 220 cases.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are four ante-natal clinics in the Division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 455 patients attended, of which 298 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 2,576. 120 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley clinics.

These have continued to be well attended and the number of attendances at these clinics during the year was 347. Some difficulty was experienced in running these classes at Pontefract due to the shortage of midwifery staff. The staffing position has now improved and this difficulty should not continue.

Institutional Midwifery.

Patients from this Division are admitted to either the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

Little difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation although it has not always been possible to secure admission to the hospital of the patient's choice. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

CHILD WELFARE.

There are County owned clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley.

Our new Pontefract Clinic continues to be admired and appreciated by patients and staff.

It is hoped to make several improvements at the Knottingley Clinic in 1960, including new entrance, pram shelter and toilet facilities.

The following proprietory preparations were available at cost price to all women attending at the clinics:-

Ostermilk	Virol
Trufood	Maltoline
Ovaltine	Scotts Twin Pack
Cow & Gate	Farex
Horlicks	Robinson's Groats.
Glucose 'D'	Robinson's Patent Barley.
Minadex	Colact
Lactagol	Robrex
Bemax	Robsoup
Cerex	Bovril Weaning Food
Trufood Cereal	Roboleine

The annual turnover of baby foods etc., is approximately £5,000.

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets	Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets	A & D Liquid
Vitamin 'C'	Lactation Tablets

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

Premature Babies.

During the year 69 babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the Division, and 30 were born at home.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Inspections.

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. the entrants (5 years +) second age group (7 years +) intermediate years (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 56 schools in the division.

Re-examinations of children who, at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 3936 periodic inspections were carried out. When it is considered that the school population is approximately 11,000, it will be realised that over half of all children at school were examined at one time or another during the year.

General Condition of Children.

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and 95.86% were classified as satisfactory and only 4.14% as unsatisfactory.

Uncleanliness.

During the year health visitors and school nurses made 16,546 examinations of children in schools. Of these 325 individual children were found to be infested.

SPECIAL CLINICS.

Ophthalmic Clinics.

During the year Dr. J.V. Kirkwood took over responsibility from Dr. R.L. Wood for the Ophthalmic Clinic. During the year 1645 children were examined. Of these 588 were prescribed glasses.

Ears, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Mr. K.M. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, for children from this Division. During the year Mr. Mayall held 22 sessions and saw 152 children. In all, the children made 255 attendances.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. R.W.L. Calderwood, Orthopaedic Surgeon, holds a monthly clinic at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, and during the year 10 sessions were held. 144 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 178.

Child Guidance Treatment.

In April the clinic with its team of workers, Dr. S.M. Leese, Consultant Psychiatrist, Mr. D.G. Pickles, Psychologist and Mr. J. Coulson, Psychiatric Social Worker, was transferred to the Central Clinic, Pontefract, from County Hall, Wakefield. Children from surrounding divisional areas attended here in addition to our own.

Ultra Violet Ray Treatment.

During the winter months, ultra violet ray treatment sessions are held twice weekly at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. During the year 45 children made 850 attendances for this treatment.

Speech Therapy.

In 1959, the speech therapy clinic at Featherstone was transferred to the Central Clinic, Pontefract. This is more convenient and more centrally situated for mothers to attend. Miss K.M. Wade treated 55 children during 1959.

Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in special schools.

Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the 42 candidates were examined and where necessary, x-ray examinations arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 18 examinations were made.

B.C.G Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th birthday. With the consent of the parents, a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child is acquiring a natural immunity. If, however, the test indicates that the child has not encountered tubercule bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

During 1959 the following work was undertaken in the Division:-

No. of consents issued.	No of consents Received.	Mantoux test.	Mantoux Negative.	Mantoux Positive.	Not Ascertained.
904	601	539	452	57	-

B.C.G. Vaccination.

452

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The programme of vaccination against poliomyelitis was continued during the year.

At the end of 1959 the position was as follows:-

Children under 15 years of Age.

Number vaccinated with three injections..... 7247
Number vaccinated with two injections..... 3303
Number vaccinated with one injection..... 133

Acceptance rate 68.7%

Young Persons.

Number vaccinated with three injections..... 296
Number vaccinated with two injections..... 2157
Number vaccinated with one injection..... 66

Acceptance rate 29.8%

The Government decided at the end of the year to extend the scheme to include adults of up to the age of 40 years.

HEALTH VISITING.

During the year, the following number of visits were made by the Health Visitors in the division:-

No. of children under 5 years of age visited during year... 3329
Total visits made to expectant mothers..... 120
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age..... 4434
Total visits made to children aged 1 and under 2 years..... 2824
Total visits to children aged 2 but under 5 years..... 5148
Total visits to tuberculous households..... 2094
Total families or households visited..... 3772
Other cases visited..... 6094

HOME NURSING.

During the year, 22,476 visits were paid by home nurses compared with 26,627 in the previous year.

The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:-

Classification.	No. of Cases attended by Home nurses during year.	No. of visits paid by Home nurses during year.
(1) Medical.	616	18,016
(2) Surgical.	180	3,732
(3) Infectious Diseases.	1	10
(4) Tuberculosis.	14	625
(5) Maternal complications.	7	93
TOTALS:-	818	22,476
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year.	473	17,031
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	39	326
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year.	218	16,958

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service is provided under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 29 of the Act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:-

(a) Ill.
(b) Lying-in
(c) Aged.
(d) Expectant Mother.
(e) Mental Defective.
(f) A child not over compulsory school age.

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the Head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council scheme.

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of home helps in this Division was 24.

Authorised Divisional Establishment.

(i)	Basic.	24.
(ii)	From reserve.	-
(iii)	TOTAL.	24.

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December, 1959.

(i)	Whole-time.	Nil.
(ii)	Part-time.	40.
(iii)	TOTAL.	40.

Cases provided with Domestic help during the year ended 31st December, 1959.

		No. of cases.	Hours employed.
(i)	Maternity (including expectant mothers).	55	3557
(ii)	Tuberculosis.	6	1218
(iii)	Chronic Sick - (a) aged 65+	290	44953
	(b) under 65	49	6163
(iv)	Others.	-	-
	TOTALS:-	400	55891

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time. 24.4.

MENTAL HEALTH.

The mental health work in the division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under Voluntary and Statutory Supervision, and in the provision of reports on home conditions to Hospital Management Committee. The new centre opened at Kershaw Avenue, Airedale at the beginning of the year. A special bus is hired to convey children from Featherstone, Pontefract and Knottingley to and from the Centre.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SUPERANNUATION PURPOSES.

New entrants to the County Council service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and during the year I examined 58 candidates. In addition, 2 members of the County Staff resident in the Divisional area who had been off duty through sickness for a considerable period were examined to ascertain whether or not the were incapable of continuing employment by reason of permanent ill-health.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF

FEATHERSTONE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1959, the First I have had the honour of placing before you.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY: The water supply, which is purchased in bulk from Wakefield Corporation Waterworks was satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

After minor alterations to a watermain complaints were received of an unusual taste. Samples were taken and all were satisfactory. The taste arose from the fresh protective inner coating given to the short portion of new main inserted. After a short time this taste disappeared.

During the long dry period of 1959 it was found necessary to ban the use of hose pipes for car washing and the watering of gardens, but no other restrictions were imposed. In view of the increasing number of houses having more modern facilities, either by new building or improvements, with the consequent increase in water consumption, this was no mean achievement.

All the houses in the district are connected to the Public Mains and the supply is generally adequate. However, the higher parts of the Purston Area suffer a greatly reduced supply on certain days due to inadequate mains. Other complaints of poor supply have invariably been due to old supply pipes. These have been renewed after the service of notices.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE

During the year 2 pail closets were converted to water closets; 28 additional water closets were provided for old property and 95 water closets were provided for new property, while 33 trough closets; 1 privy closet and 27 water closets were demolished with the houses they served, and 1 privy closet was disposed of when a dwelling house was closed.

At the end of the year there were:-

5002	Pedestal Water Closets
4	Trough Closets
17	Waste Water Closets
13	Pail Closets
25	Privy Closets

There are 90 houses in the district not connected to the public sewer which are drained to cesspools. The cesspools are regularly emptied by means of a mechanical cesspool emptier,

There are two Sewage Works, one at South Featherstone draining 64% of the houses and one at Old Snydale draining 34%. The remaining 2% represents the Loscoe property now draining to Normanton Urban District Council sewer.

The South Featherstone Sewage Works continued to produce a very satisfactory effluent throughout the year. The Old Snydale Works are in need of repair and improvement but here also the effluent proved satisfactory.

It is pleasing to note the reduction in the number of trough closets, most foul appliances, made possible by the demolition of the properties in the Station Lane Clearance Area. It is unfortunate that a certain number of privy and pail closets must remain with us, either due to impossible drainage conditions or absence of a sewer.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL: This service is carried out on a weekly basis by two vehicles. The third vehicle previously employed being eliminated by the large modern freighter. On occasions, due to holidays, sickness, mechanical breakdown or inclement weather conditions, collections were delayed. Less frequent collections are made from a few of the remaining ashpits, usually situated at outlying premises. These are being converted wherever possible.

Disposal is by tipping, which fortunately is possible at a reasonable distance from dwelling houses. By this means, much useless land is brought into productivity, fine crops being harvested. Unfortunately, the very nature of the present day refuse gives rise to various problems, and attracts flies, rats and other pests. These are controlled by the best possible means.

A third vehicle is employed in the cleansing of cesspools and street gullies. On average, 3 weeks are spent on cesspools and one on street gullies, during each month.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 8,772 tons. Of this quantity 8,751 tons were disposed of by tipping and 21 tons were recovered as salvage.

The following materials were salvaged and sold:-

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.		£.	s.	d.
16.	2.	1.	1.	Fibreboard	152.	6.	10.
4.	17.	1.	0.	Mixed Waste Paper	46.	3.	11.
20.	19.	2.	1.		198.	10.	9.

NUISANCES: 219 nuisances were discovered, the majority of which were remedied as a result of informal action.

It was necessary to serve 82 Statutory Notices.

FACTORIES: There are 38 premises on the register, and 122 inspections were made. It was not found necessary to take any legal action. The Factories Act, 1937 (Parts 1 and VIII) tables follows:-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	16	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	93	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	13	-	-
Total	38	122	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ..... (a) insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of Cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel) Making etc.,	-	-	-	-	-	-
) Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains and nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Furniture and upholstery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plate	-	-	-	-	-	-
File making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and brass articles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel cables and chains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and Steel anchors and grapnels	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cart gear	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locks, latches and keys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nets, other than wire nets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sacks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Racquet and tennis balls	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper bags	-	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pea picking	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feather sorting	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carding, etc., of buttons etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basket making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chocolates and sweetmeats	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.,	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Textile weaving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL: During the year 2,405 inspections were made and premises were baited (pre-bait and poison) against rats and mice. These were mostly small infestations but included several allotments. 300 rats and 74 dead mice were picked up, being only a proportion of the Rodents actually killed.

The Council's own premises, sewage works and refuse tip were treated at three monthly intervals. Sewer Treatments were carried out in June.

This service appears to be appreciated by the public as the majority of treatments arise from complaints. Satisfaction is gained by the positive results observed.

HOUSING: During the year 76 houses were built by the local authority, 5 bungalows and 14 houses by private enterprise, a total of 95 new dwellings.

The number of post war houses built is as follows:-

Year	Number of houses erected: By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1946	42	-	42
1947	84	4	88
1948	114	-	114
1949	154	-	154
1950	12	2	14
1951	66	6	72
1952	75	2	77
1953	44	3	47
1954	105	183	288
1955	26	30	56
1956	104	11	115
1957	42	7	49
1958	122	4	126
1959	76	19	95
	1066	271	1337

120 houses and 1 caravan were demolished during the year in pursuance of clearance or demolition orders, and 8 houses were closed.

31 families were rehoused during the year from unfit dwellings.

20 overcrowded families were rehoused, and a further 5 cases of overcrowding were alleviated by rehousing lodgers.

125 houses were found to require Statutory action to secure repairs.

18 individual unfit houses were included in Representations made during the year.

The Standard Grant Scheme for improvement works came into operation during 1959. 20 applicants received grants totalling some £1,600.

These 20 applicants were all owner/occupiers and unless owners of tenanted houses can be encouraged to take advantage of the scheme, it may well be that difficulties will arise in a few years time from blocks of terrace houses having one to two privately owned modernised houses, in good state of repair, sandwiched between other houses lacking in facilities and not being so well maintained, falling into a state of decay and rapidly becoming unfit for human habitation.

THE RENT ACT 1957: During the year, 1 certificate of disrepair was granted, 3 undertakings were given by owners and 10 certificates of disrepair were cancelled, as against the 1958 figures of 45 certificates granted, 39 undertakings given and 7 certificates cancelled. During its first year of operation, 1957, 101 Form "J" - (Notice of Intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair), were served on owners, resulting in 63 undertakings by owners and the issue of 38 Certificates of Disrepair.

It can be seen that activities under the Act have reduced greatly in these three years. In the majority of cases repairs have been carried out, but there are certainly some instances of the increased rent being paid although the undertakings have not been honoured, often due to the misguided belief that eviction can take place if the reduced rent is paid.

It is felt that, at any rate in this district, the repairs section of the Act will soon be no longer used, and a complete return to the old method of complaint under the Housing and Public Health Acts will follow. This latter method, although effecting no reduction in rent, is far less complicated, many people having shown understandable concern when the provisions of the Rent Act, with its many forms and their varying time limits, have been explained to them.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD: There are 2 slaughter houses in your area.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	132	16	-	1111	102	-
No. inspected	132	16	-	1111	102	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33	5	-	1	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.0	31.25	-	.09	1.96	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	3	-	-	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.36	18.75	-	-	1.96	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

During the year the following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned and Untinned Meat	142	lbs
Peaches	21	tins
Pears	17	tins
Oranges	9	tins
Cherries	3	tins
Strawberries	1	tin
Pineapple	16	tins
Tomatoes	255	tins

Fruit Salad	4	tins
Pilchards	6	tins
Soup	1	tin
Creamed Rice	4	tins
Milk	22	tins
Salmon	6	tins
Tuna Fish	1	tin
Stringless Beans	1	tin
Raspberries	1	tin
Grapefruit	2	tins
Carrots	1	tin
Baked Beans	1	tin
Sardines	2	tins
Crab	3	tins
Prawns	1	tin
Shrimps	2	tins
Peas	2	tins

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955. There are 9 Catering Establishments, 5 Bakehouses and 143 other Food Shops in the district. Although Improvements to premises are being carried out all the time by progressively minded traders, there are still persons who do not appreciate the finer points of food hygiene. Public opinion in general and discriminating shoppers in particular would have a far greater effect in this field than any official action.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956. On the industrial side a marked improvement was noted after the change over to automatic stoking at the largest colliery in the district. Occasional nuisances occur from burning colliery spoil heaps, but these are quite well controlled by permanent sprinklers with extra hosing where necessary.

The domestic picture is rather different. In a district such as this where so many of our people work at the collieries it is obvious that some fair agreement must be reached in connection with concessionary coal, if one is to hope for any co-operation in this work.

It is also essential to stress in this type of district, where coal is our life-blood, that clean air must be achieved, not by the use of other fuels, but by the efficient use of fuel derived from coal.

On the roads, badly maintained diesel engines continue to give off black smoke at a low level into the very air we breathe.

SWIMMING BATHS: There is one public swimming bath in this district having one small and one large pool.

The water supply is by the towns mains from Wakefield Corporation Waterworks.

The large pool has a capacity of some 68,000 gallons and the small pool some 6,000 gallons. The water is cleansed and purified by a Bell's Standard filtration system, capable of delivering 28,000 gallons per hour. Thus the contents of both pools pass through every three hours.

The free chlorine content and p.h. value are checked by the Baths staff three times daily, and samples are taken for bacteriological examination by this department.

During the 1959 swimming season, 22 samples were examined bacteriologically, of which 17 were satisfactory. The remaining 5 were unsatisfactory on the plate count, and increased chlorine dosage brought the required improvement.

CONCLUSION: Being my first year as Chief Public Health Inspector there have naturally been times of doubt and a little uncertainty and I feel that I must record my appreciation of the help and co-operation received at all times from my colleagues.

Relations with Dr. Fraser and his staff have continued at the same friendly level.

In my own Department Mrs. Trafford's local knowledge has been invaluable and Mr. Southall, at the commencement of his career, has proved a willing helper.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Chief Public Health Inspector.